

Gulf Wing



403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Air Force Reserve Command

Home of the Flying Jennies & the Hurricane Hunters
Volume 25, Issue 12, December 2004

Swap Shop

See Page 10

New Chaplain Arrives

See Page 6

Lifter Crushes Competition

See Page 7

Flying Squadrons End Banner Year

See Page 14

53rd WRS Flies Tactical Mission

See Page 16

Don't Blow
Your Career
Pages
8-9

Chaplain Joins Evolving Spiritual Team

Bringing a new infusion of spirit to the 403rd Wing, Chap. (Capt.) Timothy Broughton, will perform his first official UTA in December. **Read more on Page 6.**

Policeman Cuffs Lifting Challengers

Tech. Sgt. Wesley Brantley, a military policeman with the 403rd Security Forces Squadron, claims first place in yet another powerlifting competition. **Read More on Page 7.**

Don't Blow Your Career

Avoiding the pitfalls of drug abuse are a responsibility of every member of the Reserve. After one Airman's lapse in judgement, wing officials are emphasizing the serious consequences of choosing the wrong path. New Air Force rules lead to more frequent testing for some age groups. **Read more on Page 9.**



Flying Squadrons End 'Banner' Year

Election Day signaled the return of troops in the 815th Airlift Squadron and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron who for 10 months rotated crews providing presidential and vice presidential support during the campaign. **Read more on Page 14.**

Hurricane Hunters Gear Up for Tactical Mission

Adding a new mission to their roster, the Hurricane Hunters of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, recently trained to deliver troops on an austere runway. **See Photos on Page 16.**



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Swap Shop

Troops from the 403rd Maintenance Group engine shop were tasked to swap an engine on a C-130J aircraft during the November UTA after it struck a trio of birds during a routine airlift mission. **Read more on Pages 10-13**

What's Happening?

Know of an upcoming exercise or unit deployment? Are there special events planned at your unit? Contact your Unit Public Affairs Rep or call Public Affairs at 377-2056.

Council brings ideas from Colorado conference

Unit representatives from throughout Air Force Reserve Command met for the Human Resource Development Council workshop in Colorado Springs, Colo. Oct. 24-27.

The workshop emphasized networking among units to brainstorm ideas and make more effective use of the individual committees.

Some topics at the workshop included, mentoring, writing effective awards and promotion recommendations, commanders' perspectives, diversity, force development and legislative updates.

The purpose of HRDC is to advise and make recommendations to Air Force Reserve leadership on matters pertaining to human resources within the command.

"Local councils were

encouraged to take a look at some of the programs we already have in place and expand our work in those areas to focus on ways to improve what we do for all our Airmen,"according to 2nd Lt. Shari Crenshaw, who attended along with other 403rd HRDC committee representatives.

Specific recommendations included organizing special working groups to handle recruiting and retention, implement new ideas at the local level and to monitor demographics and ensure diversity correlates with the local community.

HRDC programs support AFRC's "People Goals" by cultivating a diverse and motivated force, maximizing individual and career growth and developing effective and accountable leaders at all levels. The program supports "Readiness Goals" by providing and



Courtesy Photo

The 403rd HRDC team was recognized for its "Best Use of Stripes at the HRDC workshop. From left are Staff Sgt. Bobbie Tewksbury, 2nd Lt. Shari Crenshaw, Brig. Gen. Erika Steuterman and Col. Don Ralph.

sustaining a fully combat ready force, and leveraging strengths of "Citizen Airmen" to enhance the aerospace force.

HRDC also supports "Employer and Community Goals" by fostering employer support for reservists and building partnerships with community and profession-

al organizations.

Crenshaw said the 403rd HRDC, uses many sources to determine the issues important to the Wing, however, "without input from individuals, the HRDC cannot effectively work to improve issues affecting our people and their careers."

From Staff/UPAR Reports

PROMOTIONS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Tony J. Stringer, 403rd MXS
George E. Mars, 53rd WRS/CC

MASTER SERGEANT

John E. Beck II, 403rd MXG
Kevin M. Davis, 53rd WRS
John W. Flippen, 403rd MOF
James W. Hooten, 96th APS
Beverly D. McQueen, 403rd OSF
James R. Shepherd, 403rd MXS

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Shirlee D. Torreon, 96th APS

STAFF SERGEANT

Joseph K. Craft, 403rd MSF
David B. Garrett, 403rd MXS
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Nicole A. Varnado, 403rd ASTS

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Jacob D. Cirbo, 815th AS
Rachel A. Craft, 403rd AMXS
Jason G. Leggett, 403rd MXS

AIRMAN

Fabe D. Ingram, 96th APS
Bradley A. Johnson, 96th APS
Diechea C. McGee, 815th AS
Jonathan M. Padgett, 403rd CES

NEWCOMERS

A1C Catherine Jackson, 96th APS
SrA Roland J. Broussard III, 403rd AMXS
A1C Jonathan Correia, 403rd AMXS
A1C Johnny O. Delashmit, 403rd MXS
TSgt Spencer J. Emanuel, 403rd CE
A1C Luke H. Frierson, 403rd MXS
AB Heather K. Hamilton, 403rd ASTS
AB Courtney Henderson, 403rd CF
SrA David T. Lane, 41st APS
SrA Aaron Z. Mckenzie, 403rd SVF
TSgt Eugene D. Noonan, 403rd MXS
A1C Maxwell L. Peacock, 403rd MOF
A1C Christopher J. Pierre, 403rd LRS

OCTOBER CDC COMPLETION

SSgt. Shane M. Hogan, 3P071
MSgt. Tobey L. Bartee, 2AX7X
SrA Samuel T. Curry, Jr., 3P051
SrA Cornealous T. McSwain, 3P051
TSgt. Shannon M. McDonald, 3S051A

SSgt. Joel S. Smith, 2T271
SSgt. Sterling M. Thibodeaux, 2AX7X
SSgt. Alonzo W. Riley, 3E351B
SrA Richard E. Johnston, II, 4N051A
A1C Jennifer L. Thornton, 3M051A
SSgt. Wayne W. Cox, 3M071A
SSgt. Anthony A. Caputo, Jr., 3E052B
A1C Racheal N. Walker, 3M051A

CDC COMPLETION 90+

SSgt. Mathis J. Tillman, 2AX7X

Editor's Note: This new feature in the Salutes section adds a little extra recognition for those individuals who have completed their Career Development Courses in the past month with a score of 90 or higher. Congratulations.

Pay Date
Dec. 15
Next UTA
Jan. 8-9

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Volume 25, Issue 12

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* Marie Haberstroh, CAP *

(Right) Lt. Col. Robert Katz, who headed up the 53rd WRS's flight navigation section, took his final flight Oct. 29. Colonel Katz retired from the Air Force Reserve with 36 years total service, 22 of those years with the 403rd Wing. A local resident, he plans to remain in the area.

(Below) Birds of a feather flock together, but not this time. During the November UTA, two H-model aircraft were transformed from weather mission aircraft to tactical mission aircraft. The additional fuel tank usually carried on WC-130H aircraft and weather equipment used during hurricane missions were removed for the exercise and rails and rollers were installed. Senior Airman Jordan Dole, a crew chief with the 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, checks a tie-down strap on a set of cargo rails, before transporting them and installing them on a waiting aircraft.



Photo by SrA Elizabeth Moore, 403rd OSF



Photo by SSgt. Linda Adams, UTPAR, 403rd AMXS



Photo by SrA Elizabeth Moore, 403rd OSF

When the Hurricane Hunters aren't busy pinpointing nature's deadliest storms they also visit several airshows each year. 2nd Lt. Eileen Govan, aerial reconnaissance weather officer, hands out squadron doubloons at Wings over Houston.



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Ready to respond at a moment's notice if called to deploy, units from the 403rd Wing took part in a mobility exercise during the November UTA. Units across the wing practiced deployment procedures, updated certifications and prepared supplies to simulate a deployment. During the exercise, Tech. Sgt. Kevy Green, a crew chief with the 403rd Maintenance Squadron, secures a cargo pallet loaded with supplies to prepare it for weighing and eventual loading onto an aircraft for deployment.



Photo by TSgt. James B. Pritchett



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

(Top) A long trail of runners participating in "A November to Remember" rush past 403rd Wing headquarters Nov. 6. Approximately 600 runners competed in the 5k event sponsored by Keesler Air Force Base and the Gulf Coast Runners Club. Many of the runners were military from across the Coast, including the 403rd Wing's own Maj. Maria McElroy. (Left) Major McElroy, executive officer, 403rd Wing, earned a trophy for her performance in the race, placing third in her age group with a time of 24:55. The first place overall male was Mark Nolan with a time of 16:37 and the top finishing female overall was Shawwna Conner with a time of 21:47.



Chaplain joins evolving spiritual team

By TSgt. Michael Duhe
Senior Staff Writer



Bringing a new infusion of spirit to the 403rd Wing, Chap. (Capt.) Timothy Broughton, will perform his first official UTA in December.

Chaplain Broughton, a native of Mobile, Ala., is not unfamiliar with his new co-workers — he and Chap. (Capt.) Ray Thompson are acquaintances from past chaplain schools. MSgt. Claude Perry and SSgt. Penny Washington, chaplains assistants, round out the wing's spiritual squad.

"I'm happy to be here and to be a part of the team," he said.

Chaplain Broughton is a 1994 graduate of Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, where he earned a master's degree in divinity. He joined the Air Force in 1997 and served as an Individual

Mobilization Augmentee chaplain at Robins AFB, Ga., and later at Dobbins AFB, Ga., in 2000.

Chaplain Broughton said he believes in focusing on teaching and preaching ministries in his role, particularly in family-related counseling.

"I do have a desire to work with families, marriage and counseling children," he said. "I think family is very important and I spend quite a bit of time ministering to couples and children, to try and provide information that can lead to a more functional family."

The chaplain's role in the military is an important one, according to Chaplain Broughton, because the military recognizes the spirituality of its members.

"I think the role of the chaplain is one that is needed in the military," he explained. "And I think the men and women in uniform are fortunate that the military allows the freedom of religious expression and provides trained individuals to nurture the spiritual aspects of our military."

"The Chaplains Service is probably the foundation to the best military in the world," he said.

Chaplain Broughton is a welcomed addition to the staff, according to members of the 403rd Chaplains Office.

"I've known Chaplain Broughton for five years, and he is a man of great character and intellect. He's a great people person who I am looking forward to working with," said Chaplain Thompson.

Chaplain Broughton visited the unit during the November UTA meeting troops and familiarizing himself with the base. He and Chaplain Thompson even offered their blessing on the new two-bay hanger.

In addition to the new chaplain, the Chaplain's Office recently moved to new quarters in the 403rd Wing Headquarters, Bldg. 0223. Sunday UTA services will also move to a new location. Presently held in Larcher Chapel, the service will move to the 815th AS auditorium beginning in January. The time and message remain the same.

Chap. (Capt.) Timothy Broughton believes spirituality is an important component of the U.S. military.

Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

December 2004



In his first lift of 485 pounds, Tech. Sgt. Wesley Brantley, a military policeman with the 403rd Security Forces Squadron, presses more than twice his body weight during the bench press event. He went on to prove he is one of the strongest men in Mississippi during the meet.

Heavy Metal

Policeman cuffs lifting challengers

By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

A lavish ballroom is transformed into a sweaty gymnasium for the strongest men in Mississippi to compete in a powerlifting and bench press open meet in November.

Heavy-metal music floods the cavernous room, washing over hundreds of spectators as competitors gear up for their next lifts.

Two spotters on each side of the bench stand ready to yank the bar up should a competitor reach muscle failure.

Across the room, powerlifters steel themselves for a maximum effort. They will each try to successfully lift their personal best. Each lifter decides what he thinks he can lift that day and pushes just a little further. The competitor who lifts the most in his class wins.

Among the swarm of powerlifters Tech. Sgt. Wesley Brantley, a military policeman with the 403rd Security Forces Squadron, warms up for his

sixth powerlifting competition. After claiming a first-place victory in the 198-pound weight category each time he has competed, his expectations are high.

Earlier in the day, the bull-necked sergeant squashed his competition with a 705-pound squat, but still needed a strong bench press and dead lift to claim overall best lifter in his weight class.

He fit a spandex shirt over his shoulders to offer only the slimmest protection against the raw metal bar and the 485 pounds of pressure that would soon threaten to collapse his frame.

"I'm going to start my bench with 485 pounds and see how I feel from there," he said. "You know, most of us end up pushing about an extra 30 pounds than we've ever maxed — it's just the adrenaline during competition."

As his turn neared, he slid under a warm-up bench press and pumped out one rep of 405 pounds to loosen up. Only a few years ago this weight

seemed far from achievable, he said.

"I had always wanted to be a powerlifter, but it didn't really start until 2001, when I was deployed," he said. "I would train at night after work because there was nothing else to do, and while I was over there I started getting a lot stronger, and I gained 20 pounds. When I got back home, I got on a website and started searching for powerlifters to train with. I found Tony Caprari, a local powerlifter who holds 11 world records and is ranked 11th in the world for the 198-pound class."

From there, Sergeant Brantley's powerlifting career began, and his lifestyle changed. He balanced his duty as a reservist and police officer with the Gulfport Police Department to become a powerlifter, training rigorously at least three days a week and eating an elephant's portion at each meal.

"I remember one time my girlfriend cooked me three steaks, and I ate them all in three hours — I ate one, took a

See Lifter Page 15

December 2004

Page 7

Don't BLOW

Your Career

By TSgt. James B. Pritchett
Editor

A 403rd Wing Airman ended his Air Force Reserve career Nov. 1 as a result of illegal use of a controlled substance.

The Airman, assigned for training to the 361st Training Squadron, Detachment 2 at Pensacola Naval Air Station, tested positive during random drug testing for cocaine in March.

He was court-martialed at Sheppard Air Force Base receiving a bad conduct discharge and two months confinement he served there. Upon release, he was brought back to the 403rd Wing for outprocessing.

"Reservists are a part of the Air Force and will be dealt with as members of the Air Force," said Maj. David Rose, deputy staff judge advocate for the 403rd Wing. "Reservists may not be aware that they can be brought back on active duty if they test positive for drug abuse during a period of active duty."

Penalties for drug abuse for Reservists range from administrative discharge and confinement to loss of pay and reductions in rank.

According to Major Rose, people convicted with lesser drug-related crimes can be sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement up to five years.

Those convicted of serious drug-related crimes such as distribution face up to 15 years confinement as well.

A bad conduct or general discharge also await those who are proved drug abusers.

"The Air Force adheres to a strict 'zero tolerance' policy," said Major Rose, "and I can assure you the wing commander will not tolerate drug abuse in this unit."

New programs began in



Photo Illustration by SSGT. J. Justin Pearce

Airmen discharged due to drug abuse can find themselves with limited career choices in the civilian sector.

October to enhance screening processes used to identify drug abusers.

Changes to the Air Force's drug testing program include more testing for those most likely to use illegal drugs or abuse legal drugs.

The Air Force began its "Smart Testing" program Oct. 1. Under the program, individuals in the group shown to most likely use illicit drugs are tested at a higher frequency than the rest of the population. That target group includes those in the ranks of airman basic through senior airman and first and second lieutenants.

As a component of Smart Testing, the Air Force will increase the number of random drug tests it performs on the target group to equal

the number of people in the group. People who fall into this group can expect to be called for random testing at a much more frequent rate.

In addition, Airmen who attend training can expect to be tested at some point, according to Major Rose.

The process of random urinalysis starts with selection. Using software that has a listing of all the Airmen who are subject to drug testing, the program generates a random list based on the number of tests the unit will run on a given day.

Once a name is selected, it is immediately put back into the system. Because names are put back into the system and because they are drawn randomly, individuals cannot predict when they will be tested, or how

many times they will be tested during the year.

Tests are 100 percent accurate, said Senior Master Sgt. Claudia Bruffy, Drug Demand Reduction Program manager for the 403rd Wing. Several precautions in the system prevent errors.

"When samples are collected, an Airman verifies several times that his or her bottle has the correct social security number and that it has not been tampered with. Each Airmen signs a form stating that the sample taken is their sample. The bottle is sealed in the Airman's presence, and a strict chain of custody is followed after that," said Sergeant Bruffy.

Samples are tested for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogens, ecstasy and date-rape drugs. The lab can also test for steroids, if required.

"Marijuana is the drug most commonly found in military members, followed by cocaine," she said.

Sergeant Bruffy said the Drug Demand Reduction Program was implemented to help maintain a fit and ready military and a drug-free Air Force community.

"We work to keep illicit drug use down through a combination of education, deterrence, and detection," she said.

One thing the DDRP is not short on is information. Briefings and a wealth of literature including videos is available for anyone concerned about substance abuse and prevention. With limited resources available to Reservists, it is up to each individual to resist temptation.

Bruffy said the number of wing members who have tested positive remains low.

One former Airman's mistake serves as a reminder to everyone not to let drugs blow your career.



Swap shop

Troops from 403rd Maintenance Group's engine shop swap a damaged C-130J engine after a birdstrike. Slow and steady, the team guides the propeller onto a prop dolly. Since the propeller wasn't damaged, the crew will re-attach it after the engine swap. Read more on Pages 12-13.

Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce



Birdstrike prompts engine replacement

By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

When unlucky birds decide to spend the last seconds of their lives exploring the inside of a roaring C-130 engine speeding through the air at approximately 350 miles an hour, the results get messy.

If a 403rd Wing aircraft is damaged by a "birdstrike," maintenance teams shift into high gear to swap it out.

Recently these knuckle busters from the engine shop were tasked to swap out a C-130J engine after inspectors determined it was damaged by a trio of birds during a routine airlift mission.

"Air Force engines are not bird blenders," said Tech. Sgt. Don Maloid, who works in the engine shop. "They're sensitive to damage - anything from buttons to birds."

"For the safety of the flightcrew and the aircraft, we are constantly making sure these engines are in tip-top shape," he said.

Sweating under an



In preparation for an engine swap, Airman 1st Class Roger Gregory inspects the new engine.

intense, winter-defying sun during the November UTA, a team from the engine shop arrived on the flightline where their damaged aircraft awaited.

It was time for action. Swapping a 3800-pound mass of metal and wires perched on the wing of a C-130 about 12 feet off the ground is usually a routine job for these expert mechanics.

Their experience, however, is strongest with the older model C-130H. This replacement called on the team to tackle a C-130J.

Unlike the H-models, all the tools for this procedure haven't been created for the J-models.

One major change required the team to remove the propeller first then disconnect and remove the engine. With the H-model the prop and engine come off as a unit, according to Maloid.

After shutting off all of the aircraft's systems, the troops began their work. Using a heavy-duty maintenance stand they removed the nose of the prop and loosened its bolts.

Meanwhile, a prop dolly, similar to a crane, pulled into position. The team fastened its extension, a prop sling, to the prop.

The team was extra careful to avoid dragging the 800-pound prop drag off the engine. It had to come off without sliding down the bolts, which could cause severe damage, the kind of damage a snow skier's back end might suffer if he didn't take that extra push before clearing the edge of a cliff.

The crew used slings to pull the prop off the engine, lower it and fasten it to the prop dolly.

With the prop out of the way, the crew was ready to remove the engine.

Again, working methodically they disconnected hydraulic lines, fuel lines, electrical lines and fire detection systems linking engine to aircraft.

Once disconnected, they removed the engine with the same care as the prop.

The engine will be sent to a depot, an aircraft engine repair facility, where it will be inspected and repaired.



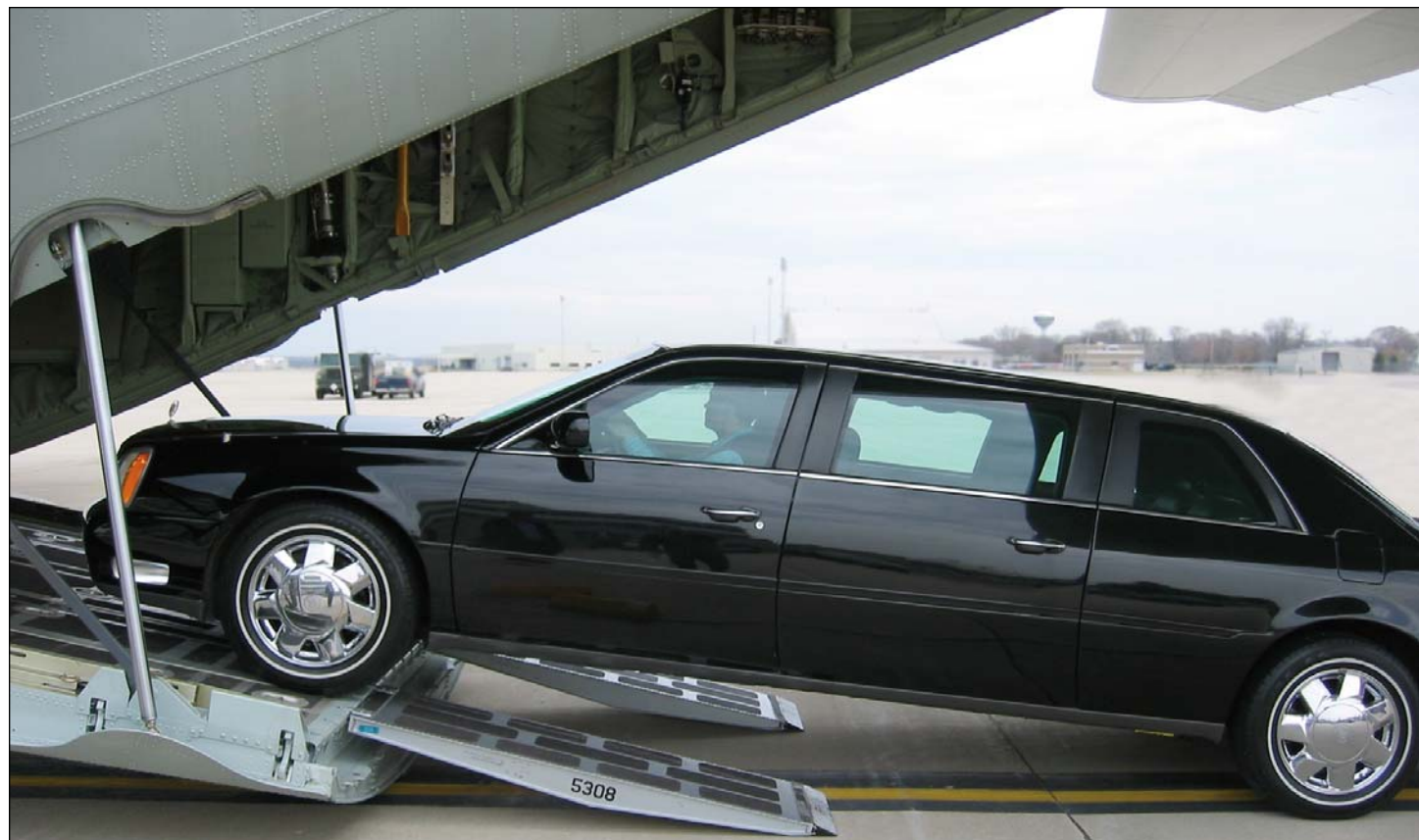
(Above) The point where a C-130J engine interfaces with the wing is a tangle of hoses and wires that must all be removed and then reconnected when a new engine is put in place.

(Right) On the flightline, Senior Airman Frank King disconnects a damaged engine from a C-130J. Replacing the J-model engine took most of the day for the maintenance team to finish.



Photos by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Once an engine is removed, aircraft maintainers tag it, load it on a dolly and haul it back to their shop where it will be processed for shipping to an aircraft engine repair facility. Tech. Sgt. Don Maloid labels the engine before he and his crew guide it onto the dolly.



Courtesy Photo

As part of the "Banner Express 2004," members of the 815th Airlift Squadron and 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron joined active duty and Air National Guard units in Baltimore, Md. to provide presidential and vice-presidential support. During the mission, the crew undertook a multitude of tasks that included transporting Secret Service personnel and limousines to designated areas.

Flying squadrons end 'Banner' year

By SSgt. J Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

Election Day signaled the return of troops in the 815th Airlift Squadron and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron who for 10 months rotated crews providing presidential and vice presidential support during the mission.

As part of "Banner Express 2004," they combined efforts of their new C-130J-model aircraft with those of Air National Guard units in Rhode Island and Baltimore, while active duty units joined with their C-17s at Andrews AFB, forming as a whole the 306th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, the first stateside expeditionary airlift squadron in history.

"The mission was very successful; with the capabilities of our C-130Js we were able to complete our missions faster and more effectively than before," said Capt. Mark Suckow, a

pilot with the 815th AS who participated in the mission. "There were times when we were paired with the H-model, and we pretty much left them in the dust."

During the mission, Captain Suckow and other rotating crews from the 815th and 53rd flew missions predominately along the east coast, transporting Secret Service personnel, administration limousines, Marines who were also supporting the mission and other cargo used in support of the president.

"Throughout those 10 months, the President, Vice President and First Lady never had to steer from their mode of transportation. Secret Service agents were always in position and limousines were always in place," said Maj. Todd Humble, 306th EAS assistant director of operations. "As far as I'm concerned, we were 100 percent successful in completing our assigned mission."

In addition to supporting Banner Express, the 306th EAS also flew trainer and support missions, as well as additional taskings from higher headquarters, such as Aeromedical missions supporting troops who were injured while fighting overseas.

Aircrews transported them to their home stations upon discharge from Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews AFB, Va.

Captain Suckow said, for him, the Aeromedical missions were the most memorable aspect of the mission.

"I saw one guy; his eyes were sewn shut and half his forehead was blown off," he said. "I felt terrible for him, but happy that we were able to take him and other injured troops home."

Master Sgt. Morton Smith, a loadmaster with the 815th who also supported Aeromedical missions during Banner Express, said he was surprised by the positive attitudes injured troops displayed.

"I spent a total of 15 weeks supporting Banner, and in that time I must have carried maybe 45 injured troops. Many could walk on board, but there were those who had to be carried," he said.

"Some of these young folks will never be the same again; lost limbs and eyesight were among the worst injuries, yet their spirits were high," said Sergeant Smith. "These soldiers were not feeling sorry for themselves; they felt they had a job to do, whatever the cost — and they did it."

The 815th and 53rd together provided two C-130Js during the entire duration of Banner Express, swapping out crews about every two weeks. Some crewmembers, like Sergeant Smith, volunteered to support the mission for up to two months at a time. Combined, 26 pilots and 17 loadmasters from the 403rd Wing supported Banner.

Along with the other two C-130J Air National Guard units from Baltimore and Rhode Island, the crews suc-



Courtesy Photo

Maj. Frank Poukner, a pilot with the 815th AS, and Chief Dale Taylor, chief loadmaster, 815th AS, were among the rotating crew during Banner Express. Loading the vehicles proved easier than loading tactical vehicles in most cases, according to loadmasters who supported the mission.

cessfully completed 27 trainer and support missions, 98 higher-headquarters missions, transported 4,400 passengers and 5.8 million pounds of cargo,

racking up enough hours in the air to fly around the world 32 times.

The 306th EAS saved the Air Force \$23,313,933 in aircraft positioning and depo-

sitioning costs during Banner Express.

The 306th EAS was formally inactivated during a ceremony Nov. 5 at Andrews AFB.

Lifter Continued from Page 7

nap and got up and ate the other two," said Sergeant Brantley as he listed the various mega doses of food he consumes daily. "What can I say; she's got a great Indian sauce."

On any given day, Sergeant Brantley eats at least three protein-loaded meals, which include items such as chicken breasts, fish, steaks, baked potatoes and rice, and also drinks at least three or four protein shakes in between meals. As far as supplements, he takes multivitamins, coral calcium and glycosamin, which aids in cartilage and joint support.

After his first year of intense training, Sergeant Brantley was ready for his first powerlifting competition.

He entered the first World Association of Benchpress and Deadlift meet in the sub-master class, as well as the law-and-fire class, a cat-

egory specifically for lifters in law enforcement careers. He swept the competition, claiming the titles of Best Bench, with a lift of 479 pounds, and Overall Best Lifter.

"Since this was a first meet and no records were set, I basically broke a state record every time I lifted," he said.

Sergeant Bradley's lifting was on fire. For the past few years, he competed and claimed first place titles in four other meets. His most significant feat was the Wable World Championship powerlifting meet in Las Vegas, where he was named champion of the law-enforcement open class.

He later began training with acclaimed powerlifter Joe Ladnier at his training center in D'Iberville.

But the past was behind him, and his chance to earn another victory was nearing.

"I'm in the hole," he said as he

began psyching himself up for his first bench press lift, which he decreased from 485 to 465 pounds to assure a good lift and avoid tiring himself for his second and final lift.

It was his turn now; he slid onto the bench and instantly became the center of the crowd's attention. As blaring music rang in his ears, he grasped the bar firmly and heaved up the weight. His face turned red as he eased the weight on his chest and exploded it back up for a successful repetition. Applause echoed through the room as he made his way off the stage and back into the musty arena.

Once again, the powerful policeman proved he can crush the competition. He benched 485 pounds, squatted 705 pounds and deadlifted 584 pounds to claim the title of Best Overall Lifter in his weight class, as well as picking up another trophy for the Best Bench press in his category.



New mission for 53rd

Hurricane Hunters go from practical to tactical

Aircrews of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron are accustomed to long hours and long missions. What they aren't used to is landing their birds in the dirt.

With a new mandate from the Air Force, the Hurricane Hunters recently began training to take on their new concurrent mission — tactical airlift. The airlift mission will not detract from the unit's main responsibility of tracking hurricanes. The world's only operational hurricane tracking unit will continue to support the National Hurricane Center as well as flying winter storm missions in the off season.

(Top) Troops from the 18th Airborne Corps load onto a 53rd WRS C-130J at Luzon Landing Zone near Pope Air Force Base, N.C. A Hurricane Hunter aircrew conducting the unit's first Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training mission land the aircraft on the austere landing strip to pickup the troops.

(Above) The C-130J can land and take off on shorter expedient landing strips than its predecessors.

(Right) Airborne troops ride in relative comfort in the J-model.

Spouse Pins

Last month (November) the Air Force launched the Spouse Pin program to recognize the hardships and sacrifices made by military and civilian families as the nation continues to wage war on terrorism. Through a Web-based program, service members and Air Force civilians can log on to www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com and register their spouses for a personalized letter signed by the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff with an accompanying one-inch silver lapel pin.

Recruiting Project

The 403rd Wing Recruiting Office is requesting support from reservists in placing recruiting literature at area businesses. If you own or work at a business that would like to show support for the Air Force Reserve, please contact the Recruiting office at 377-5236, or stop by Bldg. 904 Rm., 136. If you frequently visit a business that you feel may support this program, please provide its name and location to the Recruiting office. This is an exciting way for Reservists to become involved in the recruiting process and to show the public that the Air Force Reserve is composed of members in their own community.

MPF Hours

Military Personnel Flight customer service hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on UTA weekends.

This section serves as the initial point of contact between the customer and other MPF work centers. It also administers the casualty assistance program, family member dental plan, identification card benefits and privileges and assists personnel with immigration and naturalization services. This section is also point of contact for the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, estab-

lishing and maintaining the unit personnel record group, and awards and decorations.

Chapel Service

To better serve the needs of members of the 403rd, the chapel service presently held in Larcher Chapel will move to the 815th AS auditorium beginning in January. The time remains at 7:15 a.m. but the location will change. The chapel staff is always looking for ways to better serve our members and welcomes your input. We can be reached at 377-0400.

Medical Jobs

A new Air Force Reserve Health Professions Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. George Adams, is now based at Keesler in the Sablich Center.

The Air Force Reserve is in search of qualified health professionals to join its high-

ly skilled teams. Unit members are encouraged to use the Get One Program www.afreserve.com/getone to submit potential applicants and receive recognition. The following critical AFSCs are available in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida units: 44M3, 44Y3, 46F3, 46P3, 47G3, and 48R3. Applicants may even be eligible for a signing bonus or loan repayment. For information and eligibility criteria, contact Sergeant Adams at 228-377-8332 or e-mail george.adams@keesler.af.mil

Flu Shots

Deployed and deploying servicemembers are among the priority groups to receive the flu vaccine. All high-risk beneficiaries and all operationally deployed servicemembers will be vaccinated on time this flu season.

Healthy servicemembers who are not scheduled for deployment will be deferred from receiving the vaccination until the more critical categories receive their shots. Troops deployed to the U.S. Central Command theater of operations and to South Korea are DoD's highest priority.

College Money

Reservists activated to fight the war on terror can get more money for college through the Selected Reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill. Full-time students normally draw a max of \$288 a month. Full-time students activated for 90 days to a year can draw a max of \$402 a month. Those who serve 1-2 years can get up to \$602 for 1-2 years. The amount goes to a max of \$803 for more than 2 years.

Gulf Wing Reflections

Originally printed in the wing magazine, January 1992



Festive Flight

Capt. Steve Renwick, aerial reconnaissance scheduler, enjoys his Thanksgiving meal aboard a WC-130. The crew worked close to 13 hours on Thanksgiving Day including 10 hours in the air.

File Photo

Commissary scholarships enter fifth year

By Bonnie Powell

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Applications are now available at commissaries and online for \$1,500 academic scholarships for children of active-duty, Guard and Reserve servicemembers and retirees. The application window for the 2005 Scholarships for Military Children program closes Feb. 16.

In five years, the Defense Commissary Agency program has awarded more than \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships.

The goal is to award at least one \$1,500 scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants, officials said.

Eligibility requirements and other information are also available on the Internet at www.militaryscholar.org. Applications must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has affected the student's life.

Funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, officials said.

Applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university fulltime in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations online at www.militaryscholar.org/contribute/contribute.shtml.

American Forces Press Service

C-130 crew survives enemy attack

By Capt. Aaron Burgstein

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — It was a bright, clear day when an Air Force Reserve C-130 Hercules with 57 Soldiers aboard took off from an airfield in northern Iraq bound for a forward-deployed location. The flight seemed to be routine until the pilot thought he heard a "thud." Then, according to the aircrew, the flight became anything but routine.

"I suddenly had a fire-warning light staring me in the face," said Maj. Rolf Breen, the aircraft commander. The major and his crew are assigned to Air Force Reserve Command's 440th Airlift Wing, Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis., and deployed to the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

The aircraft had been hit by ground fire and was in trouble. The No. 1 engine was a "fireball," said loadmaster Master Sgt. James Grigsby.

The reservists from Milwaukee needed to put the aircraft down quickly and safely said Major Breen. This involved finding somewhere for the aircraft to land and letting someone know what had happened.

Co-pilot Capt. Jason Schroeder said he notified command officials of the situation and warned other aircraft in the area. Then, "We had to figure out where to go," he said.

"Our mindset was to get away from the threat," said Major Breen.

Navigator Lt. Col. John Loranger quickly found an alternate airfield for the aircraft to land. It was not a regular airfield but rather an emergency divert field with minimal facilities.

"We didn't have any (navigation) info on the field ... but luckily, we'd been there just a few days prior so we knew it could safely handle us," Colonel Loranger said.

However, landing safely was not the only problem; the aircraft was still on fire.

"The fire didn't go out for (most of) the flight," said Staff Sgt. Dan Hayes, the flight engineer.

Once they completed the initial emergency procedures, they continued battling the blaze, he said.

"Because the fire was still going, we continued to keep an eye out for places to set the aircraft down if needed," said Colonel Loranger. He said it seemed like an eternity before they reached the airfield.

"It only took us about 10 minutes from



Photo by Capt. Aaron Burgstein

Maj. Rolf Breen, a C-130 aircraft commander with the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, looks out the window of his C-130 during a sunset over Iraq. The major is a reservist from Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station in Milwaukee.

start to finish, but it seemed like 45."

The fire burned for about seven of those 10 minutes. About eight miles from their divert field, the fire finally went out.

The reservists said that when they got to the divert field they were concerned with the runway because about half of it had been damaged during the war, and now there were people on it.

"I'll never forget the sight of the people working on one end of the runway waving at us as we passed overhead," the major said.

Once the aircraft was on the ground, the loadmasters evacuated the passengers.

"When we landed, it was like a weight coming off my shoulders," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Sczesny. "I was thankful we were on the ground, but now we had to get the passengers off the plane quickly and safely. The briefing and unloading the 57 Soldiers took about a minute."

They spent about four hours on the ground before another aircraft was able to pick them up.

Major Breen and his crew flew their next mission to the same airfield four days later.

AFRC News Service

Council focuses on people

Diversity, excellence fuel HRDC goals for 05

By Col. Donald Ralph

Vice Commander, 403rd Wing

There is no greater resource than a single human being.

That's why we have an organization within the 403rd Wing called the Human Resources Development Council, a board of committed wing members who seek to empower people who are capable of serving their nation's defense.

This is why our commander has challenged our HRDC to look outside the gates of Keesler to ensure our wing looks as America will appear, five years from today. If we can recruit a diverse group of Americans into our Air Force, we will continue to maintain our strength as a nation and as the leader of a free world.

In short, we must understand that when we help everyone reach their fullest potential, we as a nation will become even stronger.

Newcomers to the 403rd Wing are requested to attend a quarterly HRDC meeting at 2 p.m., Saturdays during Unit Training Assemblies, in the Wing Commander's Conference Room within the first three months of arrival. It's our hope to empower those who want to make things better here at the 403rd Wing. Don't just complain, take action to make a difference and find your voice in the process.

I have had the privilege of working with some Air Force Academy cadets as an Admission Liaison Officer for Mississippi, and have witnessed the benefits from gaining a cross-section of the best from America's great diversity. Working with our surrounding community makes our Air Force what Brig. Gen. Moss hopes will be a constant component of this wing — people from all walks of life.

At the end of a long career, it truly is the only thing that really matters and lasts — that of ensuring everyone had the chance of being a part of something that makes them special.



Col. Donald Ralph, 403rd Vice Commander

Likewise, numerous 403rd Wing members have donated countless hours in community schools mentoring our youth about the great opportunities in the Air Force Reserve.

As a scoutmaster for nearly 10 years, I was able to plant seeds of mentorship early in the lives of future Airmen.

I recently attended a conference in Colorado Springs and the great work we have been doing here at the 403rd Wing was highlighted for all participants. It proves that we can make a difference and make things better. Please join us at our quarterly HRDC meeting Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. and start to make a true and lasting difference. HRDC is all about "people taking care of people."

Your local HRDC council is designed to help you meet people goals. They can help lobby for issues that may account for recruitment and retention purposes. Some examples of Reserve issues that are soon to be implemented for FY05 by the National Defense Authorization Act include:

- ◆ Eliminate the 180-day strength accounting metric that requires all

reservists on active duty beyond that limit to count against active component end strengths

- ◆ Exempt reserve component personnel from certain officer and enlisted grade limits
- ◆ Repealed requirement that a member serve the last six years in a reserve component before being eligible for non-regular service retirement
- ◆ Provided Service Secretaries authority to waive the two-year active duty service obligation for Reserve component officers as a condition for receiving tuition assistance while on active duty
- ◆ Re-authorize a number of special pays and bonuses for the fiscal year
- ◆ Modified Active and Reserve Enlistment Bonus Authorities—Lengthened zone for entering agreement from 10-14 years to 10-16 years and changed the maximum years that may be used for computing the reenlistment bonus from 16-18

These along with several other issues are being lobbied due to organizations such as the HRDC pushing your concerns up through the proper chains. Some local issues that are currently being looked at by your council are:

- ◆ Provide more effective ways to track and process Awards and Decorations
- ◆ Provide Defense Language Proficiency Tests for Reservists to benefit by having knowledge of a second or third language. Provide up to an additional \$150.00 per month while on orders of 30 days or longer
- ◆ Get involved more with the local community and organizations to attract more members to join
- ◆ Provide more commissioning opportunities to prior-enlisted members within the 403rd

Want to make a difference? Here is your opportunity. I hope to see you, at the quarterly HRDC meeting Jan. 8.



Photo By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Hanging Around

When technicians from the 403rd Communications Flight find themselves high in the sky, they are not just hanging around. Occasionally their jobs call on them to climb towers to install or repair communications equipment. Strapped to a tower, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cockerill taught some of his fellow Airmen how to safely secure themselves and climb towers to perform their duties during the November UTA.

Gulf Wing Go-Getter



Each month Gulf Wing is printed for people of the 403rd Wing, like TSgt. Troy Bickham of the 41st Aerial Port Squadron.

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